CA 367 Seminar City Tour

In 1977, it was formally called the sears tower, the downtown Simpsons-Sears department store was located here before it closed in 1987, when the building sits at the location of an old Spencer's Department store that was demolished in the 1930s. Harbour Centre was built into a two and one building skyscraper style which is home to the Vancouver SFU campus that includes a lookout tower with a revolving restaurant, mall and businesses. Harbour Centre was the 8th tallest building in Vancouver at the time, standing at 168 meters, about 553 feet. Harbour Centre is a shared building which is a city where people can view the corridors and dine in to eat that were established of the downtown skyline the Northshore mountains, downtown and False Creek. It is construed in the Brutalist/Modernist style that was popular in Vancouver at the time. American astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, opened the Lookout on August 13, 1977. What's great about Harbour Centre is that they used to have a mini gallery space called Teck gallery in 2006-2024 which has a long history of artist exhibition programing projects at Harbour Centre Lounge formally known as Teck Gallery.

Martha Rosler describes the looks at art and cities are connected through economy. She explains that space, not just time, is now central to how art is used to change cities, often in ways that benefit the rich while pushing out poor communities. Her critique of creative class as a term to describe while this idea makes art seem valuable, artists and creative workers as a key to improving cities. Rosler argues it's often just a way to make gentrification seem acceptable. She shows how art and urban planning can work together to make cities more exclusive instead of more equal. Rosler also talks about the role of artists, who used to serve kings and churches but are now often tied to big business and government policies. She talks about how cities and the economy are connected, focusing on the idea of the "creative class." Rosler explains that while these people are praised for bringing energy and culture to cities, the creative class is often used as a tool for gentrification. This means the wealthier people move into neighborhoods, driving up costs and forcing poorer residents out.

The focus becomes less about real creativity or improving communities and more about making cities look trendy and attracting money. She also points out that the idea of creativity has been turned into a product to fit the needs of big business and governments. Instead of challenging unfair systems, art and culture sometimes end up supporting them. While many artists aim to make a difference, some may unintentionally contribute to the problems they want to solve by being a part of this system. Rosler also talks about how art is now more focused on creating fun and entertaining experiences instead of challenging unfair systems. Public art used to be more about making people think or criticize society.